



Eid Al Fitr Holiday, 26 November - 3 December

Further to the Ministry of Education and KHDA announcement, in line with other schools in Dubai, we have combined the Eid break with the UAE National Day celebrations.

Eid Mubarak to all our students, parents and staff, wishing you a very happy holiday!



DIA Celebration of the UAE National Days, 25 November

In the run up to the UAE 38th National Days on 2 and 3 December, Dubai International Academy will be holding a number of events to celebrate this occasion, including on 25 November a reading of the UAE Oath and singing of the National Anthem.

The UAE Oath:

I swear by Almighty God to be devoted to the UAE & its President
To preserve its security & safety
To be obedient to the law & the constitution
To fulfill my duties with honesty & truth

FORTHCOMING DATES

Detailed calendar available on www.diadubai.com

*Important
DATE!*

Friday, 20 November	Dubai Cares Water Bucket Walk
Friday, 20 November	Battle of the Bands, Gates open 5.30pm, show starts 6pm
Sunday, 22 - Thursday 26 November	The Recycling Club Battery Collection Campaign
Tuesday, 24 November	Elementary School Eid Caring in Action Day
Wednesday, 25 November	Year 3 Assembly Concert, 7.45am - 8am, parents welcome
Thursday, 26 - Saturday, 5 December	Eid Al Adha, Arafat Day & UAE National Day Holidays
Sunday, 6 - Thursday, 10 December	Secondary School MYP Exams
Monday, 7 December	Elementary School Art Expo
Sunday, 13 December	Secondary School Winter Concert
Sunday, 13 - Thursday, 17 December	Stanford Achievement Testing for Years 4 - 9
Sunday, 13 - Thursday, 17 December	UAE National Week
Monday, 14 December	PD Day - KG finish 12pm, Years 1 - 13 finish 1.30pm
Monday, 14 December	ZAKS Uniform Sale, main school entrance, 11am - 2pm
Tuesday, 15 December	Elementary School Winter Concert
Wednesday, 16 December	Secondary School Winter Disco
Thursday, 17 December	Last day of school before Winter Break, student finish 12pm
Friday, 18 December	Hijri New Year
Sunday, 3 January 2010	School resumes after Winter Break
Sunday, 3 - Wednesday, 6 January	DP Revision
Thursday, 7 - Thursday, 14 January	DP 1 Exams
Thursday, 7 - Thursday, 21 January	DP 2 Mock Exams
Monday, 11 January	PD Day - KG finish 12pm, Years 1 - 13 finish 1.30pm
Tuesday, 12 January	Year 5 Camp
Wednesday, 13 January	ES Portfolio Conferences, Elementary School finish, 12pm
Thursday, 14 January	ES Portfolio Conferences, Elementary School finish, 12pm
Tuesday, 19 January	KG Sports Day
Wednesday, 20 January	Years 1 - 3 Sports Day
Thursday, 21 January	Years 4 - 6 Sports Day
Sunday, 24 - Friday, 29 January	THIMUN, The Hague
Sunday, 31 January	End of Semester 1
Sun, 31 January - Thurs, 4 February	Secondary School Spirit Week (Prom Committee)
Monday, 1 February	Start of Semester 2
Tuesday, 2 February	Elementary School Art Expo
Wednesday, 3 February	Year 5 Mini Exhibition
Thursday, 4 February	Elementary School Reports issued
Thursday, 4 February	Year 12 & 13 Reports issued
Monday, 8 February	PD Day - KG finish 12pm, Years 1 - 13 finish 1.30pm
Wednesday, 10 February	Brand X Year 9 Science Fair
Thursday, 11 February	Secondary School Sports Day
Friday, 12 - Saturday, 13 February	DP1 Year 12 Weekend Retreat
Monday, 15 February	MYP Year 11 Personal Project Exhibition
Thursday, 18 - Sunday, 21 February	DIAMUN 2010
Sunday, 21 February	DIA Holiday
Tuesday, 23 February	MYP Reports issued
Wed, 24 - Thurs, 25 February	MYP & DP Parent Teacher Conferences, 12pm - 5pm
Friday, 26 February	Prophet's Birthday
Sunday, 28 February	Swimming Programme Begins
Sunday, 28 February	MYP Mid Year Awards Assembly

Monday, 1 March	DP Mid Year Awards
Thursday, 4 March	World Book Day
Thursday, 4 March	International Day
Sunday, 7 March	PD Day - No School for Secondary Students
Monday, 8 March	PD Day - KG finish 12pm, Years 1 - 13 finish 1.30pm
Monday, 8 March	Year 11 DP 1 Subject Choices Presentation
Monday, 8 - Thursday, 25 March	Year 11 DP 1 Subject Choices
Wednesday 10 - Saturday, 13 March	Emirates Airlines Festival of Literature
Thursday, 11 March	Year 13 CAS Fair
Tuesday, 16 March	Elementary School Art Expo
Thursday, 18 March	World Water Day Presentation
Friday, 19 March	Water for Life carnival
Friday, 26 March	Start of Spring Break
Friday, 26 March - Sunday, 4 April	Spring Holidays Field Trips
Sunday, 28 March - Tuesday, 6 April	DP2 Revision courses offered
Monday, 5 April	School Resumes after Spring Break

IMPORTANT NOTES ON FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Dubai Cares Water Bucket Walk, 20 November 2009

Dubai Cares invites you to participate in the Water Bucket Walk, a symbolic walk-a-thon in support of children who do not have access to clean drinking water in schools around the world.

When: Friday, 20 November 2009
Time: Walk-a-thon, 9am - 10.30am
(Registration 8am - 9am)
Where: Jumeirah Beach Park
Entrance: AED 30 per person



Registration forms are also available from the Elementary and Secondary School offices. Please return the completed form, together with the entrance fee, to either Radhika Bhandari, Elementary School Coordinator or Caroline Kellett, Secondary School Coordinator. Families are also encouraged to take part and can sign up via www.dubaicare.ae/WaterBucketWalk.

The Battle of the Bands 2009, 20 November 2009

DIA is very proud to host the Battle of the Bands 2009. This is a charity event and all proceeds will be donated to the United Nation's World Food Programme. Did you know that there are 1.02 billion under nourished people in the world today which means one in nearly six people do not get enough food to be healthy.



DIA is hosting this event to raise as much money as possible but we need your help to achieve this. Please do attend, not only will you be supporting a worthwhile cause but this event will also be a lot of fun.

Gates will open at 5.30pm on Friday, 20 November and tickets will be available on the door priced AED 45. The show begins at 6pm and will finish at approximately 9pm. Look forward to seeing you all there.

Declan Alvaro, Secondary School Teacher

The Recycling Club Battery Collection Campaign 22- 26 November

This campaign is a good opportunity for students, faculty and their families to participate and show their support and commitment to preserve the environment. The Recycling Club, in collaboration with the Emirates Environment Group will be coordinating this campaign. Batteries can be left in the closed plastic bins around the school and will be collected by the EEG on 26 November.



Elementary School Eid Caring in Action Day, 24 November



Our PYP students are currently focusing on ACTION, and how their actions impact our society and community. Children are learning to care about others through action and we have also discussed how this should begin with caring for those closest to home.

Eid Al Adha is a local celebration in our community where people care for others through acts of charity. We would like students to take some action within our own school community by assisting the cleaning, security and cafeteria staff amongst others. The students are encouraged to donate phone cards so that those people who are separated from their families and often their children, will be able to phone home over

Eid. We would be very grateful to receive donations of either Du or Etisalat phone cards by Tuesday, 24 November. Please send the phone cards rather than paper slips.

On 24 November, students are invited to participate by dressing in their special 'Eid' clothes as it is traditional for children to wear new or special clothes for this occasion. Children may wear traditional, party or smart clothes to recognise the host country celebration. We would also like to invite all elementary school classes to a 30 minute assembly beginning at 7.45am, where a number of students will be presenting further information on Eid al Adha and explaining the rituals involved.

Junior School Council in Action Fun Day, 25 November

The JSC is organising a Fun Day for Year 3 - 6 students on Wednesday, 25 November. The event will take place during student lunch breaks and entrance will be AED 10 which will include a raffle ticket. Proceeds from the Fun Day will be used to buy phone cards for our Care Bags and will also be donated to Pratham, a charity working to provide quality education to underprivileged children of India.



Junior School Council Care Bags

The JSC is organising Care Bags to say a big THANK YOU to our hard working support staff and would be very grateful to receive any donations consisting of the following: Toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, canned food, rice, phone cards, nuts and everyday supplies . No fresh food please!



Please send your donations to the classrooms where they will be collected by a member of the Junior School Council. The last day for sending in donations is 9 December.

Thank you very much for your generous contributions.

UPDATES

Stanford Achievement Testing, Years 4 - 11

Stanford Achievement tests are being taken by students from Year 4 through to Year 11. The Stanford 10 provides our school with strong evidence of what our students know and are able to do. The information we receive as a result, helps teachers focus instruction on areas that may be identified as needing strengthening. Additionally the school will then have group performance information that indicates how well the students have performed compared to other groups in the subject areas of Language Arts, Math and Science. The test results are for programmatic development and are not used to evaluate student progress. The Stanford 10 tests will all be completed online.

Admissions Department Request

As we move closer to the end of 2009, we are also coming to the point in the year when many families choose to move abroad or move schools. With this in mind, the Admissions Department would be very grateful to receive any notification of changes to your circumstances as early as possible. Please contact the Admissions Department via admissions@diadubai.com or 04 368 4111, ext 113 or 114, if you require any further guidance on the matter.

Car Share Scheme

Parents dropping off children at school are no doubt aware of the traffic challenges. Should you be interested in joining a lift club, you will find information on the notice boards in the main entrance of the school. Contact details can be left on the forms provided, so that parents can make arrangement for lifts amongst themselves.



Student Achievements

We are always keen to share student achievements and experiences in DIAllogue and we are therefore eager to hear of any recent happenings. Please forward any news to diafeedback@diadubai.com so that we can celebrate these accomplishments with the whole DIA community. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yearbook

A limited number of 2008-2009 yearbooks are still available for sale, priced at AED 120. Please contact the main reception if you would like to purchase a copy.



Comments and Feedback

If you would like to give feedback on any aspect of Dubai International Academy, we look forward to receiving your comments via diafeedback@diadubai.com.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

ESL & Arabic Assembly, 2 November



On 2 November, Year 5 students from Ms. Manuela's Arabic B class and ESL students from Ms. Dima's class presented a joint assembly. The students completed a role play on 'introductions' and considering that the students are all new to DIA, there was a definite connection. The role play was first performed in Arabic and then repeated in English. It was great to see our students being great risk-takers and wonderful communicators in more than one language. Well done!

Manuella Watfa, Elementary School Teacher



Year5 Art Exhibition & End of Unit Celebration, 20 October

On Tuesday, 20 October, there was great excitement as the Year 5 students prepared to show their parents the exquisite works of art completed during their first unit of inquiry, 'Looking in the Mirror.' Visitors to the exhibition were astounded by the creativity, talent and skill displayed in the art, and by the vast amount of work achieved in 6 weeks! The variety of media and materials that the students were exposed to was evident in their creations of cave paintings, aboriginal art and the various self-portraits. Ms. Anu and the students also surprised their teachers with magnificent portraits of their own class teacher, done in Chuck Close-esque style.

After the Art Exhibition, the children invited their parents up to their classrooms. They proudly showed off all the written and art work that they had completed throughout the unit to define and portray themselves. Some classes showed their Creativity by singing songs that the students had written their own lyrics to. Others were Knowledgeable as they presented research they had done on the way people through history have used writing and art to define and portray themselves. Well done, Year 5 students, for being such wonderful Inquirers, Communicators and Thinkers.



A big thank you to Ms. Anu and the Year 5 Teachers for all your hard work during our first and extremely successful unit of inquiry!

Lisa Engelmann, Elementary School Teacher

Unit of Inquiry - Our School

On 16 November we were visited by Mr. Matthew Greening who showed the students a video about the information technology classes and spoke about working with classroom teachers to provide IT opportunities for all students. Mr. Vikrant Sharma followed this by explaining his very important role in making sure that the buses, maintenance and cafeteria are all functioning properly. After each session, students discussed the different roles and their connection with how the school works. **Catherine Grigg, Elementary School Teacher**



Unit of Inquiry - The Unspoken Message

As part of their unit of inquiry, The Unspoken Message, Year 3 students enjoyed the opportunity of learning American Sign Language from KG2 teacher, Ms. Cathy Grigg. Once back in their classes, the students were able to put in practice what they had learnt.

Meetali Khanna, Elementary School Teacher



Year 1 & Year 5 Art Exhibition, 20 October

Year 1 and Year 5 students recently hosted a wonderful Art exhibition held in the Elementary gym, where they displayed a variety of exciting works of art. Year 1 have been working on self-portraits and learning all about abstract art, the primary colours, shape and texture. Year 5 displayed a colourful selection of pop art, aboriginal art and computer generated portraits working with distortion.

Skye Miller, Elementary School Art Teacher



KG2 Unit of Inquiry - Our School

KG2 students have been very busy hearing and learning about the different staff roles at DIA and how these roles help the school to function in order for us to learn. Guest speakers from various sections of the school came to speak to the children. On 8 November, Mr. Julian Wilcock and Mrs. Ruth Alawi explained the function of the Elementary School office. Following this on 12 November, Dr. Indira George and school nurse, Suchitra D'sa spoke about their roles in the school clinic, as well as reminding students about the importance of a healthy lunch and to wash their hands frequently.



KG2 Unit of Inquiry - Our School

The students of KG2 MQ were excited to be part of the audience listening to the wonderful children's author, Debi Evans. Debi came to meet the children and read some fantastic and fun stories which the students thoroughly enjoyed.

Manal Qawasmeh, Elementary School Teacher





SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWS

Peace Day, 11 November



On the morning of 11 November, Secondary School students, faculty and staff gathered at the front of the school to celebrate and promote the existence of peace throughout the world. Following a moving ceremony which included the reciting of a peace prayer, CAS students planted a Peace Pole by the school's main reception to remind everyone visiting the school of the importance of peace.

'Peace is not just the absence of war. It is a lot more than that. Peace is not merely the celebration of achievement but rather the remembrance of tragedies of the past. Peace is not about dying for one's country but about living for the world'.

Congratulations to Divya Jethwani of Class 9E!

Hundreds of organisations, schools and individuals including Divya took part in the Emirates Environmental Group's annual Waste Collection Campaign for 2008. Thanks to the incredible efforts of these volunteers and supporters, the EEG was able to beat all previous recycling targets.

At the prestigious Emirates Environment Group's 12th Annual Prize Giving Cere-

mony held in June 2009, Divya was presented with the Top Collector

Award in the Individual Category for Paper, having collected an amazing **6891 kg** of paper for recycling!

Congratulations also go to Chirag Bhimani of class 9A who was awarded 1st Runner up for Plastic Collections.

Well done to both students!



DP2 Weekend Retreat to Khor Fakkhan, 13 - 14 November

On the weekend of the 13 and 14 of November, DP2 students took part in a retreat to Khor Fakkhan in the UAE . During our time there, we stuck to a very tight schedule of TOK clinics, presentations on study skills and time management, peer assessment for extended essay, and of course CAS.

Travelling by luxury coach, we all arrived raring to go and immediately kicked off the day with session on time management and TOK. Following lunch, we continued with more TOK before some relaxation in the evening with a BBQ and light entertainment. At 6.15am we woke up and headed to the beach area where we had organised yoga sessions for the boys and

girls. This was great fun but I think we all gained a healthy respect for yoga! It is not easy!



Having invigorated our mind and bodies, the students could choose between a game of beach volley ball and soccer. This was followed by an intense session on the extended essay involving peer assessment.

Students felt this was a very beneficial session as they came away with a much more

balanced idea of the requirements for the extended essay. We concluded with a reflection and focus session where students could reflect on their time at DIA and amongst other things what they thought of the workshops and the retreat.

Many thanks to Pascal Ashkar, Seema Desai, Pam Parasram, Pratibha Rao and Declan Alvaro for their wonderful support.

Sheugnet Carter, IB Diploma Coordinator



Duke of Edinburgh Awards Trip to Nepal, 2010

As part of this years Duke of Edinburgh Gold and Silver Awards programme, we are organising a trip to Nepal. The dates of this trip will be from Friday, 26 March 2010 until Saturday, 3 April 2010 inclusive.

The current estimated cost of the trip is AED 6,200 inclusive of visa, transport to and from the airport, flights and ten day stay in Nepal. If we want to be assured of reduced airline prices, I must already ask you for a deposit of AED 3,000 which is non-refundable. Only this deposit will secure a place on the trip for your child.

The deposit must be made to the school by Tuesday, 15 December 2009. The remaining balance will then be due by either late January or February 2010. Towards early January, we will also be holding an explanatory meeting to present you with the planned activities and the purpose of our stay in Nepal.

If you have any questions regarding the trip please feel free to contact me at school or via viktoriar@diadubai.com

Viktoria Ryjevskaja, Duke of Edinburgh programme

SPORTS NEWS



On 11 November, the DIA JV Boys soccer team played a friendly against Gems World Academy. Throughout the game DIA displayed far better skills and at the final whistle won 4 - 0. Notable performances came from team captain Shuaib Al Sulaimani, Mihir Asodia and Wisam Abou Chama in attack and in midfield, Mirza Mammadov.

JV Dubai Coast Conference Playoffs, 7 November

On Saturday, 7 November, DIA hosted four schools from around Dubai in the JV DCC Playoffs. After some very close and exciting matches JV Girls finished in second place behind DAA, and JV Boys finished in third.



U14 Boys & Girls Football Festival, 7 November

On the same day as the JV Soccer Playoffs, the under 14 boys and girls teams competed in the soccer festival held at DAA. Well done to the U14 girls who took first place and the U14 boys who took second.

DCC Swim Meet, 6 November

Photos from the recent swim meet where DIA came 3rd out of 5 schools which was a great achievement.



Sports Fixtures

Sunday, 6 December	- Tennis vs. ASD
Wednesday, 6 January	- Basketball boys and girls JV vs. DAA @ DAA 3.30pm
Wednesday, 6 January	- Basket U14 boys and girls vs. GWA @ DIA
Sunday, 10 January	- Basketball varsity boys and girls vs. GWA @ GWA
Wednesday, 13 January	- Basketball JV boys and girls vs. GWA @ DIA
Sunday, 17 January	- Basketball girls JV @ AAG 4pm
Wednesday, 20 January	- Basketball U14 girls vs. AAG @ DIA 4pm
Sunday, 24 January	- Basketball U14 and girls vs. GWA @ GWA
Monday, 25 January	- Basketball boys and girls JV vs. UAS @ DIA 4pm
Monday, 25 January	- Basketball boys and girls U14 vs. DAA @ DAA 3.30pm
Monday, 25 January	- Basketball boys and girls V vs. UAS @ UAS 4pm
Saturday, 30 January	- Cross Country @ Mushrif Park
Sunday, 31 January	- Basketball varsity boys and girls vs. GWA @ DIA
Monday, 1 February	- Basketball boys and girls V vs. ASD @ ASD 4pm
Tuesday, 2 February	- Basketball boys and girls U14 vs. UAS @ DIA 4pm
Tuesday, 9 February	- Basketball boys and girls JV vs. ASD @ DIA 4pm
Wednesday, 10 February	- Basketball boys and girls u14 vs. ASD @ DIA 4pm
Friday, 12 February	- U14 Basketball Festival @ AAG
Saturday, 13 February	- JV Basketball @ AAG - AAG
Saturday, 20 February	- V Basketball @ UAS - UAS
Sunday, 21 February	- JV Badminton @ ASD



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

MEIBA Conference

The Senior Management team of DIA attended the Middle East IB Schools Association annual conference held this year in Dubai on the weekend of 6 and 7 November. Several member schools from the region sent their representatives with DIA presenting the biggest contingent of eight delegates. The two day conference had three key note speakers. Dr Don Jacobs talked about Performance Learning Systems that design solutions to enhance the effectiveness of teaching. His most recent project is a web-based management system that will support the delivery of the IB programme. Adrian Kearney, Regional Director of IBAEM, discussed the expansion of IB worldwide and in the region. Laura Malbogot, an international consultant gave a talk on 'Differentiation in the Teaching Domain' from the perspective of change and leadership.

The delegates discussed problems that were common to all schools in the region and benefited from each others' experiences. The Coordinators of the three programmes were able to network and plan meetings to share best practices in the future.

Elementary School

On Monday, 9 November, Lisa Engelmann, Year 5 Coordinator and teacher reported back on the 'ACTION in the PYP' Workshop she attended in October. Teachers heard more about what ACTION is, why it is such an important element in the PYP and how we can facilitate and recognise ACTION in our programme at DIA. Some teachers have already implemented these principles by setting up ACTION boards in their classrooms. An ACTION board is positioned near the elementary school office where action can be celebrated and recognised. Individuals and groups of students will also be recognised for their ACTION by receiving an ACTION certificate.

On 15 and 16 November, the Elementary School teachers had working sessions with Math and Science consultant Erma Anderson. Mrs. Anderson works with schools around the world in developing curriculum that aligns with standards. She has been the National Science Teachers' Association Director of International programs and Program Manager for Teacher Mentoring Initiative for Student Success. She works closely with Project AERO by helping schools with their math curriculum. The Elementary School year level teams met with Mrs. Anderson to focus on the standards and investigate the core of math curriculum. The entire Elementary faculty also heard how standards should be applied in all subject areas by engaging children in learning, and allowing for exploration, explanation, extension and evaluation of their learning.

Secondary School

On 9 November, the Secondary School teachers attended a presentation on Internal Moderation, which led to a formal internal moderation session in MYP and DP the following week. Eleanor Scarr, the MYP Coordinator introduced the concept of UAE Week, which will be celebrated for the first time at DIA in December. During the breakout sessions in departments many ideas were brainstormed.

Pratibha Rao, Director of Studies



H1N1 INFORMATION

Dear Parents,

I would much prefer to change the topic but the reality is that the H1N1 virus is still very much on everyone's minds - particularly in a school setting and other public areas such as shopping malls where you find hand sanitizers everywhere reminding us to be diligent with washing hands.

Recently I came across an article directed at clinics regarding the new guidelines for the treatment of the H1N1 influenza and I am sure you will also find the article of interest. I am of the opinion that equipping ourselves with the knowledge of our bodies, diseases, illnesses and treatment is vitally important. In spite of the fact that we may have a wonderful family physician it is always necessary to educate ourselves as, at the end of the day, it is our body and our family who are dependent upon us. Sometimes we get anxious reading about an illness or disease and the side effects of the medicine but if you understand the problem you will find that it easier to manage and treat in the correct way.

In school we have had many cases of flu however the confirmatory tests for the H1N1 virus have not been easy to conduct. We thank parents of the children who have had the flu for being so cooperative and helpful. Your support ensures that we can help keep some control over the cases of flu.

The updated guidelines from the WHO state that antiviral medication should be administered as soon as possible to patients in the 'at risk' category displaying flu symptoms, patients with pneumonia or those with uncomplicated flu like illness that worsens or fails to improve within 72 hours. Patients in the 'at risk' group include pregnant women, children younger than 2 years old and individuals with chronic illness such as respiratory problems. The new guidelines have been revised by the WHO since there is now more experience with the antiviral medication and its effectiveness, there is also now ample supplies.

The vaccinations have not been made available as yet. The vaccine is supposed to be quite safe and is produced in exactly the same way as the seasonal flu vaccine. If H1N1 had emerged earlier it would have been included as one of the strains in the 2009 flu vaccine.

Dr. Indira George, School Doctor